

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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TAGS: EAGR OECD

SUBJECT: OECD EXCOMM AND COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS ON MEAT

1. ON APRIL 24, EXCOM DISCUSSED "MEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK. IMPROVEMENTS IN MARKET INTELLIGENCE FOR MEAT, C(75)25." SECRETARIAT (SIMANTOV) SUMMARIZED MEAT OUTLOOK AS NOT ENCOURAGING INTO 1976, REFERRED TO RECENT EC PARTIAL LIFTING OF ITS BEEF IMPORT EMBARGO AS "MINOR MEASURES" AND AFTER REFERENCE TO US NEGOTIATIONS OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT MEASURES CALLED US MARKET "ONLY MAJOR MARKET REMAINING ESSENTIALLY OPEN." HE REPORTED ON SECRETARIAT'S NEWLY ELABORATED MEAT MARKET SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, REFERRED TO THE GATT CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON SHORT TERM ASPECTS OF THE WORLD MEAT MARKET AND TO THE GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL'S INVITATION TO OECD TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS OF THAT GROUP AND TO ASSIST IN ITS WORK. U.S. REP, IN LINE WITH SIMANTOV, REFERRED TO EC NEAR-COMPLETE EMBARGO, ORIGINALLY FOR 3-1/2 MONTHS

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ENDING LAST OCTOBER 31, THEN EXTENDED INDEFINITELY.

US COULD NOT INDEFINITELY REMAIN WORLD'S ONLY LARGE BEEF IMPORTER WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS WHATEVER. HOWEVER, UNDER THE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WE WERE NEGOTIATING WE EXPECTED TO IMPORT NINE PERCENT MORE IN 1975 THAN IN 1974 WHEN OUR IMPORTS WERE COMPLETELY FREE. GERMANY SUGGESTED INVITING ARGENTINA TO PARTICIPATE IN COMM FOR AGR WP4 (MEAT) MARKET INTELLIGENCE WORK IN ORDER TO LEND ADDITIONAL STRENGTH TO THAT EFFORT. SECRETARIAT SAID ARGENTINA PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE, WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH COMM FOR AGR WORK; BUT HAS NOT BEEN INVITED. SPAIN FAVORED INCLUDING ARGENTINA IN NEW INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM. DENMARK WANTED MATTER CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF PRECEDENT ARGENTINA'S PARTICIPATION WOULD SET.

2. ON APRIL 29 EXCOM CHMN PRESENTED AGENDA ITEM TO COUNCIL. SEVERAL DELS DISCUSSED MARKET DEVELOPMENTS AND FAVORED STRENGTHENED OECD OUTLOOK WORK. SPAIN AND DENMARK REITERATED THEIR REMARKS IN EXCOM, THE LATTER EMPHASIZING IT HAD NO NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION BUT IN CONNECTION WITH ITS PRECEDENT-SETTING ASPECT THE CASE OF OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. SECGEN SAID HE WOULD REFLECT ON THE MATTER.

3. ON MAY 13, IN COMM FOR AGR, SIMANTOV REPORTED ON FORMATION OF GATT CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON MEAT, GATT'S INVITATION TO OECD TO SEND SOMEONE TO GROUP'S MEETINGS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK. GATT SPOKESMAN ENCOURAGED OECD MEAT WORK AND OBSERVED THAT GATT GROUPS TENDED TO BE SHORT-LIVED. SIMANTOV REFERRING TO GERMAN PROPOSAL TO INVITE ARGENTINA TO PARTICIPATE IN OECD MEAT WORK SAID SECGEN WOULD SUBMIT ANY PROPOSAL FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

4. COMMENT: THIS IMPLIES THAT BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT TIME ARGENTINA CANNOT BE INVITED TO WP NO. 4 MEETING, JUNE 4-5.

5. CONCLUSION: UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, MISSION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHOUT SEEKING AN ACTIVE ROLE ON THIS ISSUE, WILL FAVOR PARTICIPATION. IF QUESTION OF OTHER MEAT-EXPORTING COUNTRIES COMES UP, MISSION, IF NECESSARY, PROPOSES TO POINT OUT THAT ARGENTINA IS THE LEADING MEAT EXPORTING NONMEMBER COUNTRY SO THAT ITS INVITATION NEED NOT CREATE AN OBLIGATION TO INVITE OTHERS.
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